

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 STR-04 CEA-01 COME-00 /073 W

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O R 201610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3132

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 21128

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, IT, FRG

SUBJECT: SCHMIDT STATEMENTS RE AID TO ITALY -- FRENCH

REACTIONS II

REF: PARIS 10978 (NOTAL)

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SUMMARY. REACTIONS TO SCHMIDT STATEMENT ON THE PART OF

INDIVIDUAL FRENCH PARTIES HAVE HARDENED INTO PREDICTABLE POLITICAL LINES. POST BELIEVES THAT CURRENT UPROAR IN FRANCE WILL DIMINISH IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ESPECIALLY IF A CABINET IS NAMED WITHOUT COMMUNISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT, UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION, OF THE ELYSEE STATEMENT ISSUED ON JULY 19:
BEGIN QUOTE DURING RECENT MEETINGS OF WESTERN LEADERS THE SITUATION IN ITALY WAS, OF COURSE, EXAMINED. FRENCH OFFICIALS DISAPPROVE OF OUTSIDE DECLARATIONS CONCERNING THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION OF PARTNER STATES, AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS INDICATED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, AND DO NOT ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THESE STATEMENTS. CONCERNING AID, THE GRANTING OF AID HAS NEVER CONSTITUTED AN AUTOMATIC RIGHT. UNTIL NOW, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT PRESENTED THE REQUEST FOR AID. WERE SUCH A REQUEST FORMULATED, FRANCE WOULD EXAMINE IT IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CONCERNED COUNTRIES AND WOULD ANNOUNCE ITS INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ITS OWN INTERESTS AND THOSE OF EUROPE. END QUOTE.

2. IN EFFECT, THIS STATEMENT CONSTITUTES A TACIT FRENCH ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ITS ADHERING TO AN UNDERSTANDING AMONG WESTERN LEADERS AT THE PUERTO RICAN CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY IN ITS CLEAR ASSERTION THAT "THE GRANTING OF AID NEVER CONSTITUTED AN AUTOMATIC RIGHT". IN FACT, GOF NOW SEEMS MORE TO BE CONDEMNING THE REVELATIONS OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THAN ANY UNDERSTANDING WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN REACHED AT PUERTO RICO.

3. IN INTERVIEW WITH EMBOFF COVERING OTHER SUBJECTS, SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY ROBERT PONTILLON OFFERED THE THOUGHT THAT SCHMIDT'S COMMENTS HAD BEEN AT ONCE A) "AN IDIOSYNCRATIC MANIFESTATION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S PERSONAL THINKING, WHICH IS THOROUGHLY EMBARRASSING TO HIS PARTY" AND B) A FUNCTION OF SPD POLITICAL NEEDS. PONTILLON THOUGHT THAT SCHMIDT HAD BEEN SEEKING "CHEAP CREDIT" WITH CDU VOTERS IN PREPARATION FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN THE FRG. EVEN MORE INTERESTING, PONTILLON SAID, WAS THE EXTENT TO

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AID-05 CIEP-01 STR-04 CEA-01 COME-00 /073 W

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O R 201610Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 21128

WHICH THE SPD HAD REACTED -- PRIVATELY, OF COURSE --
TO SCHMIDT'S DECLARATIONS. PONTILLON CLAIMED THAT IN
PREPARATORY TALKS WITH SPD LEADERS (WHILE NO NAMES WERE
MENTIONED, EMBOFF HAD DISTINCT IMPRESSION FROM OTHER
INDICATIONS THAT PONTILLON HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER
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WITH BRANDT) LOOKING FORWARD TO PS/SPD MEETINGS JULY 21, THE GERMANS HAD PROFESSED "A TOTAL LACK OF SURPRISE AT SCHMIDT'S TACTLESSNESS IN SAYING PUBLICLY WHAT ANY NUMBER OF LEADERS HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT PRIVATELY." COMMUNIST DEPUTIES ARE CURRENTLY DEMANDING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES APPEAR BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPLAIN THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

4. YVES GUENA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UDR, HAS PUBLICLY "CONDEMNED" ANY ACTION OF A STATE OR GROUP OF STATES WHICH IN ITSELF CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICS OF ANOTHER STATE, WHATEVER MAY BE ITS POLITICAL REGIME. JEAN LECANUET, PRESIDENT OF THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, A MAJORITY PARTY, HAS DECLARED IN LIGHT OF THE SCHMIDT REMARKS THAT "THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS NO MORE SENSE IF IT DOES NOT RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF POLITICAL CHOICE OF ALL OF ITS MEMBERS."

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE SCHMIDT INCIDENT IS GRABBING FRENCH HEADLINES, POST BELIEVES THAT THE PROBLEMS SCHMIDT'S REMARKS POSE TO GOF WILL GENERALLY RECEDE OF THEIR OWN ACCORD, PARTICULARLY IF, AS SEEMS POSSIBLE, A NEW ITALIAN CABINET WITHOUT COMMUNISTS IS NAMED. THE REALITY OF THE USE OF AID, BY BOTH EAST AND WEST, AS A PRESSURE ON OTHER STATES IS TO AN EXTENT ADMITTED BY THE FRENCH PRESS OF ALL POLITICAL COLORS. WHAT SEEMS TO BE LAMENTED IS MORE THE FACT THAT GISCARD COULD TAKE SUCH DECISIONS WITHOUT INFORMING THE FRENCH PEOPLE OR FRENCH POLITICIANS. IN EFFECT, THIS DECISION ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE FURTHER PRESIDENTIALIZING OF GISCARD'S REGIME. GIVEN A LITTLE LUCK, VGE WILL PROBABLY WEATHER THIS STORM BETTER THAN THE CURRENT OUTCRIES WOULD LEAD ONE TO BELIEVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS21128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760279-0078
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760741/aaaabjiy.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 10978
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHMIDT STATEMENTS RE AID TO ITALY -- FRENCH REACTIONS II
TAGS: PFOR, IT, GE, FR, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006